(d) if so, the positive steps taken to ensure that the poor farmers are also benefited by this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Under the existing scheme, Urea is the only fertilizer under the statutory price control. In the case of decontrolled Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers like Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP), Muriate of Potash (MOP), Single Super Phosphate (SSP) and Complex fertilizers, a scheme is in operation to provide concession to manufacturers and importers to enable them to sell these fertilizers at a reduced price indicated by Central/State Governments.

Even with these concessions the average consumption of ferilizer nutrients (NPK) in India is about 90Kg./ha. The ferilizer use gives economic resonse and higher yields even at much higher doses of fertilizer application, hence, the present level can not be described as high or excessive.The nutrient consumption in Pakistan, in broadly identical situation is 113 Kg./ha., in Bangladesh 135 Kg./ha. and in Sri Lanka 160 Kg./ha. The consumption in developed countries is much higher being 375 Kg./ha. In Japan, 542 Kg./ha. in Netherlands and 379 Kg./ha. in U.K.

At this level of ferilizers consumption in India, there may not be any cause for concern to environmentalists.

(c) and (d) Urea, which is the only controlled fertilizer is available to the farmers, including small and marginal farmers, at a subsidised statutory farm-gate price. Decontolled fertilizer like DAP, MOP, SSP and complexes are also available to the farmers at concessional rates.

New Agricultural Policy

2309. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to announce a national Agriculture Policy;

(b) if so, what will be the main focus of the policy; and

(c) by when it is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a)Yes, Sir.

(b) The policy will seek to promote technically sound, economically viable,

environemently non- degrading, and socially acceptable improvement of country's natural resources to attain a demand driven and balanced growth of agriculture.

(c) The Policy is in the final stage of drafting.

Development of Animal Husbandry and dairy industry in Assam

2310. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a scheme for the development of animal husbandry and dairy industry in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of fund allocated for the same during the Ninth plan; and

(d) the effective measures being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The Government has been implementing various Centrally Sponsored Schemes/Central Sector Schemes in all States including Assam for development of animal husbandry and dairy industry. However, no specific proposal exclusively for Assam is under consideraiton of the Government.

Development of Model Fishermen Village

2311. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the scheme, "National Welfare of Fisheries-Development of Model Fishermen village", the budgeted amount for implementation of the Scheme in the States, the amount released to various States during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Government of Karnataka has requested the Government for releasing the Central share component under the above jointly sponsored scheme; and

(c) if so, the reason for delay in releasing the amount and the likely date by when the amount will be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUMUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Development of Model